

May Newsletter from Executive Councilor Kenney

(Representing all the towns and cities in the counties of Coos and Grafton, the unincorporated place of Hale's Location, the towns of Albany, Alton, Andover, Bartlett, Brookfield, Center Harbor, Chatham, Conway, Cornish, Croydon, Danbury, Eaton, Effingham, Freedom, Gilford, Grantham, Hart's Location, Hill, Jackson, Madison, Meredith, Middleton, Milton, Moultonborough, New Durham, New Hampton, New London, Newport, Ossipee, Plainfield, Sanbornton, Sandwich, Springfield, Sunapee, Tamworth, Tilton, Tuftonboro, Wakefield, Wilnot, and Wolfeboro, and the cities of Claremont and Laconia)

My second month on the job as your new Executive Councilor was just as busy as the first. There were two Executive Council meetings: one on Thursday May 8th and the other on Friday May 23rd, both of which were held at the State House in Concord. The Council voted on over 200 contracts and approximately fifty confirmations and nominations for various State Boards and Commissions.

Several citizens at the beginning of the Council meetings were recognized for their achievements and volunteer work within the State of New Hampshire. The Governor and Council always has young musicians who perform before the meeting starts and it is a great way to see the young musical talent in our state. If anyone in my District would like to perform please let me know.

This month included state official District 1 tours, follow up with constituent requests and letters of grant support. Once again, I attended many community events, schools and businesses upon request. Much of my work is actually done in Executive Council District 1 which includes 108 towns and cities. I have tried to honor all requests to attend events and occasions that required my attendance.

May 3rd - Attended the Town of Jefferson's Chili Cook off held at the local fire department. It was a great time and a lot of good soup, clam chowder and chili was had by all. All proceeds went to a local charity.

May 6th - Conducted a full day tour with Department of Transportation Commissioner, Chris Clement and Deputy Commissioner, Jeff Brillhart visiting many roads, economic development sites and bridges along the way. Our day started in Tilton, NH visiting with local selectmen on local road projects and then continued north to Lincoln to see a commercial site and then on to Littleton. In Littleton, we got a complete run down from the local economic development committee on the proposed riverside project and walked the whole village riverside. There is a lot of great work going on there and more to come. From there we went to A & B Logging in Lancaster to visit the owner and look at a proposed rail crossing. From there we made a visit to the West Stewartstown Bridge near the old Ethan Allen plant. This bridge was announced as a number 3 priority in the state and will have work done on it in 2016. We also visited the Columbia Bridge on Meridan Hill Road which is under review for FEMA funding due to the wash out a few weeks earlier. The tour ended up with a lot of homework.

May 7th - I was guest speaker for the Leadership Academy with Bob Dunn at the Plymouth Town Hall. Many of these leadership academies have sprouted up around the state over the years and I am always glad to participate and speak about State Government and the unique aspects of Governor and Council.

May 9th - I had the pleasure to speak in front of future US Marines and their parents at the National Guard Center in Concord. It was a full night of watching the Marine "Poolies" get ordered around by a real Marine Drill Instructor and to have parents and relatives ask questions about basic training at Parris Island, SC.

May 14th - Attended the NH Employment Security Job Fair at Settler's Green in North Conway. 35

employers attended to offer jobs with their perspective companies. I am coordinating a job fair in Haverhill with NHES on July 18th as well.

May 15th - The North Country Workplace Education Program at the Littleton High School asked me to speak to the high school students about the importance of internships. I also added I would like to reconstitute the Raymond Burton Internship Program with the Plymouth State University. Work is still ongoing to accomplish this.

May 19th - A very busy day. I had the opportunity to attend the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce annual luncheon held at the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods. Many folks were recognized for their business and individual success. The Eastman family rolled out the "Steve Eastman" Spirit Award at the event to honor their brother, a great gesture. Later, I toured the North Country Fire Academy in Bethlehem. I was escorted around the facility by local fireman and supervisor of the project, Jack Anderson. This is a great facility which will help train northern fire fighters and provide classroom space for other first responders. That evening, I attended a Whitefield Selectmen's meeting to hear the passenger rail proposal from Golden Eagle Railway Corporation out of Maine. Their proposal is to reconnect passenger rail from Portland, Maine to northern New Hampshire to Montreal, Canada. More to follow...

May 20th and May 21st - I attended two Genesis Behavioral Health Forums, one in Plymouth at the Ice Skating Rink and the other in Laconia at the Belknap Mill building. A great discussion on mental health services and budgets was facilitated by Maggie Pritchard, the Executive Director of Genesis Behavioral Health.

May 21st - Attended the funeral of fallen Police Officer, Stephen Arkell at Exeter High School. A solemn ceremony that recognized what an extraordinary husband, father and community leader Officer Arkell was. He will be deeply missed.

May 22nd - Attended the North Country Chamber of Commerce Dinner at the Spar Restaurant in West Stewartstown. The guest speaker was Les Otten who spoke about a redevelopment proposal for the Balsams Grand Resort. This event was well attended and there was a buzz in the air.

May 23rd - Attended a breakfast meeting with Communities for Alcohol and Drug-free Youth (CADY) leaders at Prospect Hall, Plymouth State University. Inspiring stories and work being done by community leaders, educators, law enforcement etc. to steer our youth away from drugs and alcohol abuse.

May 26th - I spoke at Memorial Day Commemorations in Wolfeboro and Alton. Memorial Day is always a day to remember our veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and way of life.

May 27th and May 29th - Toured and listened to separate panel discussions with Assistant Secretary of Economic Development, Department of Commerce, Matt Erskine and US Senator Kelly Ayotte at the Enterprise Center, Plymouth, NH. The Enterprise Center is being built out and new incubator businesses are there and some are moving in. This is great for State economic development. Many local and regional economic development leaders were there including; Plymouth State University President Sara Jayne Steen and CEO Marc Scarano, as well as the Grafton County Economic Development Council.

May 28th - Attended a Thornton Selectmen's meeting at their behest. The five board panel wanted to get to know their new Executive Councilor and I brought them up to date on things I was working on inside the District. A great visit!

May 30th -Toured with the NH House Environment and Agricultural Committee visiting some farms and a farm stand to better understand the agricultural farming community in Northern New Hampshire. The day started in Bethlehem, then Whitefield, Colebrook, then Stratford and ended in Littleton. This was an extremely educational and a worthwhile day.

May 31st -Toured the Presby Antique Tractor Show in Whitefield and met a lot of great people there. Attended a training hour at the Water Wheel in Jefferson and later on, attended the North Country Charter School Academy Founder's Day Dinner at the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods. A lot of great educators and supporters of the North Country Charter School were there.

There were many calls during the month and emails, please note that my new email address is: joseph.kenney@nh.gov and my cell phone number is 581-8780. If you have someone or an organization that wants to be put on my email distribution list, please let me know.

Let me know what I can do to help solve your problem.

Sincerely,

Joe Kenney
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